

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	7946	Agenda Number	16.
Meeting Date:	8/18/2011			Department:	Health and Human Services
Subject					
Authorize negotiation and execution of contract amendments to TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM (HHSP) grant contracts to provide funding for rent and utility assistance to homeless and near-homeless individuals and families through May 31, 2012 with the following parties: FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES, INC. in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$499,689 and TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVAL CENTER (dba SAFEPLACE) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$150,000.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the FY 2010-2011 Operating Budget for the Health and Human Services Department.					
Fiscal Note					
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	January 28, 2010 – Approved negotiation and execution of HHSP sub-contracts. September 13, 2010 -- Council approved Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget.				
For More Information:	Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director for Human Services, 972-5011; Susan Gehring, Manager, Community Based Resources Unit, 972-5026; Charles Kemp, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.				
Boards and Commission Action:					
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					

During the 81st Legislative Session, the Legislature appropriated \$20,000,000 over the biennium to be administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to fund the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) in the eight largest cities in Texas. HHSP funds were targeted to serving homeless or at-risk individuals and included funding for support services such as rent and utility assistance. The HHSP grant will end August 31, 2011, and future funding is still uncertain.

In 2010 the City of Austin awarded HHSP sub-contracts to six organizations including FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES INC. for permanent supportive housing and homeless support services and TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVAL CENTER (dba SafePlace) for homeless support services.

The FY 2010-11 Operating Budget for the Health and Human Services Department included \$100,000 to support the homeless services continuum. HHSD planned to augment potential reductions in HHSP with these funds. Although the final allocation from the State has not been determined, we know that significantly less funding will be available.

HHSD recommends using this one-time funding to amend these contracts for the support services of rent and utility assistance to individuals and households who are homeless or near homeless. Rent and utility assistance are valuable components of the City's homeless services continuum, helping the homeless and near homeless become stably housed.

In addition to expanding funding for support services, these amendments will extend the period of time the funds are available.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Related Goals – Promotion/Prevention/Protection: Social Services Promote and foster increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors and lifestyle among targeted populations.

It is anticipated that approximately 75 households will receive rent and/or utility assistance. Specific performance measures to be negotiated for each contract.